

DEC 22 2004

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.usplo.gov

HOFFMANN & BARON, LLP 6900 JERICHO TURNPIKE SYOSSET NY 11791

In re Application of:

Rana et al.

Serial No.: 09/889,982 Filed: January 14, 2002

Attorney Docket No.: 1368-17 PCT/US

DECISION ON PETITION TO WITHDRAW THE HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT

This is in response to applicants' petition under 37 CFR. § 1.181 filed on July 30, 2004, requesting withdrawal of the holding of abandonment based on non-receipt of an Office action and to restore the application to a pending status.

A review of the file history shows that the Office mailed an Office action, setting a three month statutory time period for reply, to applicants on November 14, 2003. A notice of abandonment was mailed to applicants on June 29, 2004. The file history currently shows that a response to the Office action of November 14, 2003 was timely received on February 17, 2004. In view of this, applicants are considered to have submitted a timely reply.

Applicants' petition is **GRANTED** retroactively as the case is no longer in abandoned status.

Should there be any questions about this decision, please contact Marianne C. Seidel by letter addressed to Director, TC 1600, at the address listed above, or by telephone at 571-272-0584 or by facsimile at 703-872-9306.

lasemine C. Chambers

Director, Technology Center 1600